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Full & Equal Participation in All Aspects of Life by All Persons With Disabilities

Winter 2015-2016

MOD Hosts 2015 Disability Summit: *The ADA at 25*



MOD Director David D'Arcangelo addresses Summit 2015 attendees

By Rita DiNunzio

MOD was pleased to have nearly 300 guests attend our inaugural Disability Summit, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 25: Past, Present & Future on September 18, 2015. The event was held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and a breakfast buffet was served.

The Summit opened with a special surprise. A greeting was read from the signer of the ADA, President George H.W. Bush, to Summit

attendees. MOD Director David D'Arcangelo served as emcee of the Summit and presented on MOD's role as a resource for the disability community.

The Summit program featured six distinguished speakers who discussed their work and insights on the past, present and future of the ADA. Kenneth An, Director of the Boston Area Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) spoke about Title I of the ADA: Employment. Kristen McCosh, Commissioner of the Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities presented on Title II of the ADA: State & Local Government. Mary Margaret Moore, Executive Director of the Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, Inc. (ILCNCSA) focused on Title III of the ADA: Public Accommodations. Jeffrey Kramer, Executive Director of Public Policy & Strategic Alliances for Verizon spoke about Title IV of the ADA: Telecommunications. Covering Title V of the ADA: Miscellaneous was John Lozada, Manager of Federal Programs for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Civil Rights Division.

The Summit concluded with the first ever MOD Thomas P. Hopkins Disability Access Award, presented to Tom Hopkins, Director of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board since August 2002, for whom the award is named.

Video of the Summit will soon be available on MOD's YouTube channel. We look forward to seeing the community for next year's Summit on September 16, 2016.

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DEC Winter 2015-2016 Calendar

TUESDAY 1 World AIDS Day	THURSDAY 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	SUN-SAT 6-12 Civil Rights Week	SUNDAY 6 American Veterans Hospital Day	SUN-MON 6-15 Hanukkah	MONDAY 7 Pearl Harbor Day
MONDAY 7 A&F Listening Session	THURSDAY 10 Human Rights Day	SATURDAY 12 Army and Navy Union Day	FRIDAY 25 Christmas Day	SAT-FRI 26-1 Kwanzaa	

Happy Holidays

FRIDAY 1 New Year's Day	MONDAY 18 Martin Luther King Day	WEDNESDAY 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day	SUNDAY 14 Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day	MONDAY 15 Presidents' Day
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Your State Government Wants to Hear From You

Members of the public have an opportunity to voice their concerns to Commonwealth senior staff and agency heads in an open and casual environment. This will also be a chance to listen to other members of the community and to network.

As part of a series of regulatory review **public listening sessions** held by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, two sessions on Disabilities were held in November and one more will be held in December to gather public feedback.

These listening sessions seek public input regarding regulations impacting persons with disabilities. This includes both regulations for agencies that assist persons with disabilities, as well as regulations impacting persons with disabilities (e.g. building codes).

The remaining session will be held:

Monday December 7, 2015, 3PM-5PM
North Shore Community College: Room 105
Danvers Campus Health Professions and Student Services Building
1 Ferncroft Road
Danvers, MA 01923

Those who are unable to attend the session are invited to submit their input on Twitter using the hashtag #regreview and tweeting @MassANF. For reasonable accommodations contact Brian McKeon at:617.727.2040-or- Brian.McKeon@massmail.state.ma.us.

State Supplier Diversity Program to Include Disability-Owned Businesses

On November 1, 2015, Governor Charlie Baker announced several improvements to the state's existing Supplier Diversity Program with the signing of Executive Order 565.

The Supplier Diversity Program was established to promote supplier diversity in public contracting. The change most impacting the disability business community is the first-time certification of businesses owned by those with disabilities in partnership with the U.S. Business Leadership Network's (USBLN) nationally-recognized certification program.

"Our acceptance of the USBLN certification for disability owned businesses sends a clear message that state government is welcoming people of all abilities and incentivizing opportunities that promote self-determination."
—MOD Director David D'Arcangelo



Governor Charlie Baker announces changes to the Supplier Diversity Program from the Grand Staircase of the Massachusetts State House

Jeffrey's Access Corner

By Jeffrey Dougan

This installment will discuss designated accessible parking provisions. Both the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) and the 1991 & 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (1991/2010 ADA Standards) cover the requirement for designated accessible parking spaces within a parking lot. However, these regulations do not cover on-street parking. In Massachusetts, the most stringent requirement must be followed.

First, let's talk about the different types of accessible parking spaces. A standard accessible space is 8 feet wide space with a 5 foot access aisle adjacent to it. A van accessible space is 8 feet wide with an 8 foot access aisle adjacent to it. Last but not least, a universal accessible space is 11 feet wide with a 5 foot access aisle adjacent to it.

Now let's talk numbers. Depending on the number of standard parking spaces provided within a parking lot that is open to the public, there is a formula for how many accessible parking spaces must be provided based on the total number of spaces. Currently, the MAAB requires accessible spaces for parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces while the ADA Standards require accessible parking for lots with 1 or more parking spaces. So, for example, if there are 76 parking spaces in a parking lot, there would need to be 4 accessible parking spaces provided.

Additionally, depending on the number of accessible parking spaces provided in a lot, a certain number must be van accessible. The MAAB and the 1991 ADA Standards require that 1 of every 8 accessible spaces be van accessible. The 2010 ADA Standards require 1 of every 6 accessible spaces to be van accessible. However, if all of the accessible parking spaces are designed as universal spaces, then van accessible parking spaces do not need to be provided as the space allowances for the universal spaces are equal to that of the van accessible parking space (16 feet).

The formula for the total number of accessible spaces applies to all parking lots open to the public, with a couple of exceptions. If the parking lot serves "outpatient units and facilities" e.g. a doctor's office, hospital, etc., 10% of the total parking must be accessible. If the parking lot serves units and facilities that specialize in treatment or services for persons with mobility related disabilities e.g. a rehabilitation hospital, 20% of the total parking must be accessible.

MOD Winter/Holiday Scene Art Contest

By Rita DiNunzio

MOD recently hosted a children and youth winter art contest. We asked children and teens across the Commonwealth to create an original winter scene that incorporates MOD's mission of ensuring "equal participation in all aspects of life by persons with disabilities." After receiving some fantastic artwork, we selected one piece to feature as the cover of MOD's official 2015 Holiday card.

The selection is a collaboration by eighteen children ages three to four from the Commonwealth Children's Center. The project was facilitated by Barrett Grizzard, an art teacher from the Museum of Fine Arts. The students were inspired by the work of Chuck Close, an American artist with a disability. They learned how Close is able to create large paintings while sitting in his wheelchair by painting several small, separate squares and then putting them together to make one large piece of art.

The children replicated Close's technique, each creating an individual painted square. Next, each child used paper shapes to create a unique person. All of the pieces were combined to create a single winter landscape depicting people playing in the snow. The students discussed how each person in the landscape is different.

MOD staff were very impressed that the children were able to use our art contest as an opportunity to explore what it means to live with a disability and learn about a successful American artist with a disability.



Selected contest entry by Commonwealth Children's Center

Congratulations to the eighteen young artists of the selected work and thank you to all who entered our contest. You can view more entries on our blog at blog.mass.gov/mod. Happy Holidays from MOD staff!